



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

March 22, 2018

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 918** (Wiener) – as Amended on March 6, 2018 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Wiener:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 918 which creates the Office of Homeless Youth within the Department of Housing and Community Development and establishes \$60 million in grants for housing, services and supports for youth experiencing homelessness.

California has the highest rate of youth homelessness in the nation. In 2017, there were 15,458 unaccompanied homeless youth in California without a safe place to call home. This includes youth ages 12 to 24 who were living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or on the street. SB 918 establishes \$60 million in grants to be used for shelters for minors and youth, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, rental assistance, host homes, and non-time limited supportive housing.

Solving youth homelessness is a critical part of ending California's larger homelessness crisis because young people who experience homelessness are five times more likely than their peers to become homeless adults. Yet, California lacks a clear strategy to prevent and end homelessness among young people. Not only does SB 918 establish grant funding, the bill also requires the Office of Homeless Youth, to among other things, set goals to end youth homelessness, identify gaps in services statewide, and provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions.

SB 918 will invest in low-barrier and diverse housing opportunities so youth can have an array of options to escape homelessness.

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For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 918. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Lovingood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent than the last name "Lovingood".

Robert A. Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation